

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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DHA-02 ORM-02 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /106 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2063

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 133

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

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COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8039

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION OCTOBER 17-18

REF: BEIRUT 8024 (DTG 161115Z OCT 76)

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1. SUMMARY. DESPITE ASSAD CEASE-FIRE STATEMENT, CHRISTIANS

CONTINUE SHELL ALEY AND SYRIANS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN AABADIYA AND POSSIBLY SHWAYT. IN THE SOUTH THERE IS SOME SYRIAN GROUND MOVEMENT NEAR JBA'A AND RIGHTISTS ARE REPORTED IN CONTROL OF FRONTIER VILLAGE OF HANIN NEAR BINT JBAYL. KIDNAPPINGS AND RANDOM SHELLINGS INCREASE IN BEIRUT. LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS ANXIOUSLY AWAITING OUTCOME OF MINI-SUMMIT. PRESS SAYS NEWLY FORMED DRUZE VANGUARDS WILL SOON BE INCORPORATED INTO PRO-SYRIAN VANGUARDS OF LEBANESE ARMY. SPEAKER OF HOUSE KAMAL AL-ASSAD SEEKS TO INSURE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION IN SHTURA OCT 19. END SUMMARY.

2. GROUND SITUATION: IN THE MOUNTAINS. SYRIANS ARE REPORTED IN POSSESSION OF AABADIYA FOLLOWING NEGOTIATIONS WITH DRUZE ELDERS OF THE VILLAGE, AND NOW MOVING TOWARD SHWAYT. ALEY FLANKING MOVEMENT MAY BE PART OF SYRIAN MOVE TO LINK UP WITH RIGHTIST MILITIA UNITS. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR REPORTS VIOLENT CLASHES AT SHWAYT AND IN AABADIYA AREA BETWEEN PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS AND RIGHTISTS; HOWEVER G-2 SOURCE REPORTS THAT SYRIANS ENTERED AABIDIYA WITHOUT RESISTANCE. HEAVY SHELLING OF AREAS FROM ALEY TO SUQ EL-GHARB, PROBABLY BY CHRISTIANS. RADIO AMSHIT CLAIMS PALESTINIANS AND LEFTISTS HAVE WITHDRAWN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF FIGHTERS FROM ALEY TOWARDS SUQ EL-GHARB AND OTHER REAR AREAS. VOICE OF LEBANON CLAIMS SECRET NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON TO ALLOW SYRIAN FORCES ENTER ALEY PEACEFULLY. WE UNDERSTAND DRUZE OF ALEY TRYING TO NEGOTIATE PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS PULL OUT OF CITY AND LEBANESE ARMY G-2 SOURCE BELIEVES IT LIKELY FEDAYEEN WILL DO SO.

3. GROUND SITUATION: IN THE SOUTH. SYRIAN ADVANCE NOW LARGELY HALTED WITH MAIN FORCE HOLDING AT LEBAA, SEVEN KILOMETERS FROM SIDON AND JBA'A, TEN KILOMETERS SOUTH OF JAZZIN. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THERE WAS SOME SYRIAN GROUND MOVEMENT IN JAB'A AREA OCT 17. RIGHTIST SOURCES CLAIM "85 PERCENT OF VILLAGES OF JAZZIN REGION ARE NOW LIBERATED." NM POLITICAL COUNSEL SAYS FRONTIER VILLAGE OF HANIN, SIX KILOMETERS FROM BORDER IN BINT JBAYL SECTOR, OCCUPIED BY "ISRAELIS WITH COOPERATION OF ISOLATIONISTS," LATE OCT 17. LEFTIST RADIO CLAIMS  
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ISRAELIS BOMBARDED HANIN OCT 16, TOOK IT OCT 17 AND TURNED IT OVER TO RIGHTIST FORCES WHO CAME FROM JUNIEH VIA HAIFA. KATAEB RADIO REJECTS THESE ASSERTIONS, SAYING LEBANESE FORCES LIBERATED HANIN AFTER BOMBARDMENT FROM THERE BY PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS. SHELLING CONTINUES BETWEEN MARJAYUN AND QULAY'AH BUT THERE IS NO GROUND ACTION.

4. GROUND SITUATION: BEIRUT AND ELSEWHERE. INCREASE IN KIDNAPPINGS AND BLIND BOMBARDMENTS OF RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS DURING PAST 48 HOURS ADDS TO TERROR OF LIFE IN BEIRUT. SHELLS FELL OCT 17 ON SEVERAL AREAS OF CITY INCLUDING ASHRAFIYAH, MAZRA, HAMRA, THE ARAB UNIVERSITY, SABRA AND RAS BEIRUT. AUB CAMPUS HIT BY ONE SHELL OCT 16 AND ANOTHER LANDED IN STREET NEXT TO AUH. SHORT, VIOLENT CLASHES CONTINUE ALONG CENTER CITY LINE AND IN SOUTHERN SUBURBS. WARPLANES OVERFLEW WEST BEIRUT OCT 17 BRINGIN INEFFECTIVE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE. NOT CLEAR WHETHER AIRCRAFT WERE SYRIAN MIG 21S OR LEBANESE HAWKER HUNTERS. IN THE NORTH, CLASHES CONTINUE ON THREE FRONTS AROUND TRIPOLI. NAH EL-BARID CAMP SAID HEAVILY SHELLED BY SYRIANS.

5. SEARCH FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION. LEBANON ANXIOUSLY AWAITS OUTCOME OF RIYAD SUMMIT OF SIX. ARAFAT IN RIYAD IN TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH NATIONAL MOVEMENT LEADERS IN LEBANON. AL SAFIR QUOTES AN "INFORMED SOURCE" THAT ASSAD AGREED TO ATTEND THE MINI-SUMMIT ONLY AFTER SADAT THREATENED TO SEND TROOPS TO LEBANON IF THERE WERE NO SERIOUS ARAB EFFORTS TO END THE LEBANESE CRISIS. WE BELIEVE MORE LIKELY THAT SAUDI PRESSURE WAS CAUSE OF ASSAD ACCEPTANCE. AN NAHAR SAYS KATAEB DELEGATION WHICH RETURNED TO LEBANON OCT 16 WAS TOLD IN DAMASCUS THAT MINI-SUMMIT RESULTS WILL NOT RPT NOT AFFECT SYRIAN MILITARY ACTION. REJECTIONIST FRONT PUBLICATION AS SUMUD SAYS SOVIET UNION HAS DIVERTED AN ARMS SHIPMENT ENROUTE TO SYRIA IN PROTEST AGAINST SYRIA'S CONTINUED ATTACK IN LEBANON. AN NAHAR QUOTES "INFORMED SOURCES IN BEIRUT" THAT SARKIS TOLD THE MINI-SUMMIT A LEBANESE/ LEBANESE AGREEMENT IS NOT THE REAL PROBLEM AND HE WILL TAKE STEPS FOR LEBANESE/LEBANESE DIALOG WHEN THE FIGHTING

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STOPS. CHAMOUN CRITICIZES ARAFAT PARTICIPATION IN SUMMIT AS "OIL ON FIRE" AND SAYS HE PESSIMISTIC ON EARLY END TO FIGHTING. NLP LEADER CLAIMS EGYPTIANS NOW RESUPPLYING PALESTINIANS AND 800 WELL-ARMED IRAQIS, LIBYANS AND PAKISTANIS (SIC) ARRIVED IN LEBANON OCT 13. WE CONSIDER THIS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. CHAMOUN SAYS THESE FACTS, COMBINED WITH SAUDI ARABIAN AND KAWAITI FINANCIAL AID TO THE PLO "DO NOT INCITE TO OPTIMISM." HOWEVER, ARAFAT POLITICAL COUNSELLOR HANI EL-HASSAN TOLD WEEKLY "MONDAY MORNING" THAT RIYAD CONFERENCE WILL END THE LEBANESE CRISIS, FORM AN ARAB STRIKE FORCE AND REAFFIRM THE PLO POSITION AS THE ONLY LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. AL HASSAN PRAISES SARKIS AS MAN WHOSE VIEWS ON PALESTINIANS ARE "DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED" TO THOSE OF KFUR FRONT, AND SAYS APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS "IS

ONLY A MATTER OF HOURS ONCE THE PALESTINIANS FEEL SECURE."

6. DRUZE/SYRIAN ALLIANCE. DELEGATION OF CONSERVATIVE  
DRUZE (ANTI-JUNBLATTI) RETURNED TO DAMASCUS OCT 17.  
L'ORIENT-LE JOUR QUOTES DRUZE SOURCES THAT NEWLY FORMED  
DRUZE VANGUARDS OF MAANITE ARMY WILL SHORTLY BE  
INCORPORATED INTO PRO-SYRIAN VANGUARD OF LEBANESE ARMY.  
MOVE SAID BEING TAKEN IN ANTICIPATION OF ENTRY SYRIAN  
ARMY AND PRO-SYRIAN LEBANESE FORCES INTO ALEY AND THE  
SHUF.

7. PARLIAMENTARY MEETING. SPEAKER OF HOUSE KAMAL  
AL-ASSAD HHOLDING SERIES OF MEETINGS IN ATTEMPT  
ASSURE OCT 19 PARLIAMENTARY SESSION TO ELECT  
PARLIAMENTARY OFFICIALS. EFFORTS BEING MADE IN BEIRUT  
BY AL-ASSAD AND OTHERS TO ENCOURAGE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF  
DEPUTIES TO ATTEND THE SESSION IN SHTURA.  
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## Message Attributes

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